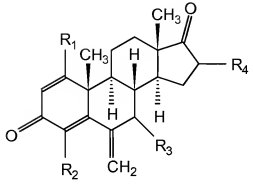
Amendments to the Claims

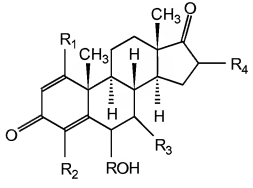
1. (Original) A method for preparing a compound of formula (I)




(I)

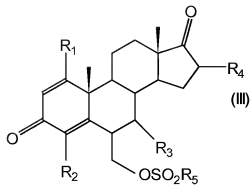
wherein each of $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$, independently, is hydrogen, halogen or $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, the method comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (II)




(II)

wherein $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$ are as defined above and R is alkylene, with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula $R_5SO_2X$ wherein $R_5$ is $C_1$-$C_5$ alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (III)




(III)

wherein $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$, $R_5$ are as defined above; and

reacting the compound of formula (III) with a base.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
wherein each of $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$ is hydrogen.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
R is methylene.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the deprotonating agent is an amine.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the deprotonating agent is a tertiary amine.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the deprotonating agent is a trialkyl amine.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
$R_5$ is methyl.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
$R_5$ is methyl and X is chlorine.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
wherein each of $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$ is hydrogen,
R is methylene,
the deprotonating agent is a trialkyl amine,
$R_5$ is methyl, and
X is chlorine.

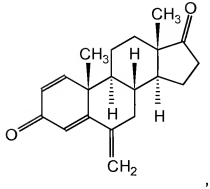
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the base is an alkali metal hydroxide.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the base is potassium hydroxide.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the compound of formula (III) is reacted with the base in a solvent.

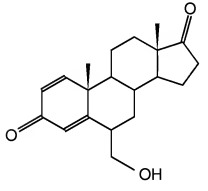
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the solvent is an alkanol.

14. (Original) A method for preparing a compound of formula



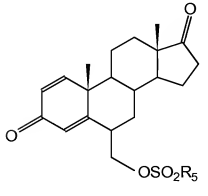
the method comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (V)



(V)

with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula $R_5SO_2X$ wherein $R_5$ is $C_1$-$C_5$ alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (VI)



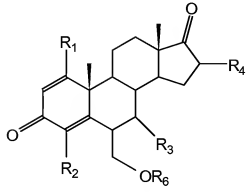
(VI)

and then reacting the compound of formula (VI) with a base in a solvent.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein:
$R_5$ is methyl and X is chlorine.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein:
the base is an alkali metal hydroxide, and
the solvent is an alkanol.

17. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula (IV):




(IV)

wherein each of $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$, independently, is hydrogen, halogen or $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and $R_6$ is a substituent other than hydrogen.

18. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 17 wherein each of $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$ is hydrogen.

19. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 17 wherein $R_6$ is methyl.

20. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 17 wherein each of $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$ is hydrogen, and $R_6$ is $SO_2R_5$ wherein $R_5$ is $C_1$-$C_5$ alkyl.

21. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 19 wherein $R_5$ is methyl.